

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A stabilized earth structure comprising a fill, main reinforcements extending through a reinforced zone of the fill situated behind a front face of the structure, and a facing placed along said front face, wherein the main reinforcements are disconnected from the facing, the structure further comprising secondary elements connected to the facing and extending in a zone of the fill which has, with said reinforced zone, a common part where loads are transmitted between the main reinforcements and the secondary elements by the material of the fill.
2. A structure according to Claim 1, wherein the secondary elements extend into the fill up to a distance substantially shorter than the main reinforcements, with respect to the front face.
3. A structure according to Claim 1, wherein the facing comprises prefabricated elements in which the secondary elements are partly embedded.
4. A structure according to Claim 3, wherein the prefabricated elements are made of concrete and the secondary elements are flexible synthetic reinforcing members each having at least one part cast into the concrete of one of the prefabricated elements.
5. A structure according to Claim 1, wherein the facing comprises prefabricated elements each having at least one projecting portion forming one of the secondary elements.

6. A structure according to Claim 1, wherein there is substantially no direct contact between the main reinforcements and the secondary elements.

7. A method for building a stabilized earth structure, comprising the steps of positioning a facing along a front face of the structure delimiting a volume to be filled, placing main reinforcements in a zone of said volume, introducing fill material into said volume and compacting the fill material, wherein the main reinforcements are not permanently connected to the facing, and wherein secondary elements, connected to the facing, are installed in a zone of the volume to be filled which has a part in common with the zone in which the main reinforcements are placed, so that once the fill material has been introduced and compacted, loads are transmitted between the main reinforcements and the secondary elements by the fill material situated in said common part.

8. A method according to Claim 7, wherein the secondary elements are installed up to a distance substantially shorter than the main reinforcements with respect to the front face.

9. A method according to Claim 7, wherein the facing comprises prefabricated elements incorporating secondary elements.

10. A method according to Claim 9, wherein the prefabricated elements are made of concrete and the secondary elements comprise synthetic flexible reinforcing members each having at least one part cast into the concrete of one of the prefabricated elements.

11. A method according to Claim 9, wherein at least some of the prefabricated elements have at least one projecting portion forming one of the secondary elements.